

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:659

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

EXPLOITATION OF LABOUR IN CASHEW SECTOR

Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the exploitation of labour being practiced in the Cashew sector in Kerala by denying minimum wages to eligible workers;
- (b) if so, the nature of action taken for effective implementation of the labour laws;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware of the large scale evasion of ESI and EPF contributions by the private management in the cashew industry in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the EPF and ESI authorities for the enforcement realization of arrears from these managements?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

- (a): Government of Kerala, which is the appropriate Government for fixing and implementing minimum wages for workers engaged in Cashew Sector in Kerala, has informed that the workers in the majority of the Cashew Sector are getting minimum wages prescribed by the State Government. Wherever the workers are not getting minimum wages, such instances are brought to the notice of employers and remedial steps taken.
- (b): Special squads have been constituted by the State Government for effective implementation of minimum wages and other labour legislations in the cashew industry. In case of non-payment of minimum wages, the Inspectors file claim petitions against the delinquent employers before the authority under the Act and prosecution cases are filed in case of non-rectification of detects in appropriate time.
- (c) & (d): Information has been received alleging evasion of ESI and EPF contributions in respect of a few private cashew establishments in the State. EPF Organisation and ESI Corporation have Inspection Machinery/Special Drive Squad to conduct inspection of all covered/coverable factories periodically and to register workers under the respective Acts and to realize contribution. In case of violations, legal action has been initiated. Apart from this, EPF and ESI Inspectors have been included in the 'Special Enforcement Squads' constituted by the State Government for the effective implementation of labour laws.